Starvation deaths in Eastern U.P.

3705. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that the families of 12 Moosahars who died of hunger in the hinterlands of Eastern Uttar Pradesh over a 15 month span have been told by the administration that they could not be called the victims of starvation;

(b) whether it is a fact that almost every household of Moosahar family has a ration card but few have the money, to make use of it and no one has heard of the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to give justice to victims of starvation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARDAD PAWAR): (a) Government of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) has reported that no death has occurred in Moosaharas community of the State due to starvation.

(b) The ration cards have been issued by the State Government to all Below Poverty Line/Antyodaya Anna Yojana families. The Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme recently launched by Ministry of Rural Development has got wide media publicity. The State Government has reported that the District Collectors have been authorized to provide financial assistance to the hunger and malnutrition prone families through Gram Panchayats, whenever required.

(c) To ensure food security in the State, in addition to distribution of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), foodgrain is also being distributed under various welfare scheme *viz.,* Mid day Meal, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls, National Food for Work Programme, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Special Component of SGRY, etc. Besides these, foodgrains @ 10Kg per person is being

provided to old persons and the destitutes of the State under Annapurna Scheme. The Village Grain Bank Scheme is being implemented in the State to ensure availability foodgrains in chronically food scarce areas by establishing grain banks in the vulnerable villages of the State.

High mortality rate of animals

3706. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of animals and birds in the prominent wildlife sanctuaries and parks for the last three years;

(b) Whether it is a fact that animals in the various wildlife sanctuaries and parks are not being taken care of properly by the concerned authorities and therefore, there is high mortality rate among them; and

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in affirmative, in what manner Government propose to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Details of animal population in different National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries of the country are not collated at the national level. However, State wise details of population of major species of wild animals is placed at Statement. (See below)

(b) No, Sir. It is the constant endeavour of the Central and State Governments to improve the habitat of the wild animals inhabiting the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so that a viable population is maintained.

(c) Does not arise.